

# COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

# City of Adamsville Public Works Department

October 16, 2019

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury



**DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS** 



Justin P. Wilson

Comptroller

Jason E. Mumpower Deputy Comptroller

October 16, 2019

Adamsville City Commission Adamsville City Hall 231 East Main Adamsville, TN 38310

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the City of Adamsville Public Works Department, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy is available for public inspection in our office and may be viewed at <a href="http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/">http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/</a>.

Sincerely,

Justin P. Wilson

Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/MLC



### **INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

## City of Adamsville Public Works Department

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations concerning misuse of a city Fuelman purchase card by a Public Works Department employee. The Comptroller's Office initiated the investigation after officials with the City of Adamsville reported questionable transactions on Fuelman reports. This investigation was limited to selected records for the period September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 24th Judicial District.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Adamsville is located at the crossroads of Highway 64 and Highway 22 in Southwest Tennessee, three miles from the Tennessee River in McNairy County. The City of Adamsville's government consists of a City Commission composed of a mayor and four commissioners. Elections are held every two years in October for the mayor and commissioners who serve four-year staggered terms. Also, the city employs a full-time administrator who oversees general day-to-day operations of the city's business.





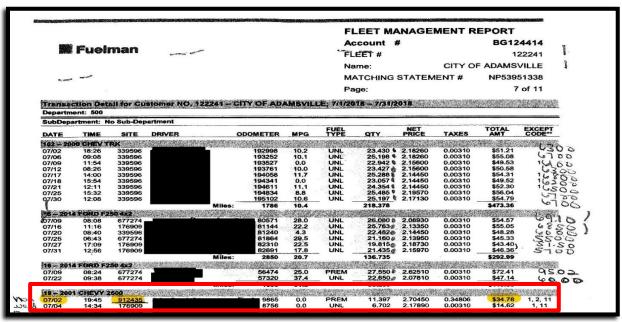
#### RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

• PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE JOSEPH KNIGHT IMPROPERLY USED A CITY FUELMAN CARD TO MAKE PERSONAL FUEL PURCHASES TOTALING AT LEAST \$1,480.02

During the period January 2018 through September 2018, Public Works Department employee Joseph Knight improperly removed a Fuelman card from a decommissioned public works truck (unit number 19: a 2001 Chevy 2500) and used the Fuelman card and pin number of another city employee to make personal fuel purchases totaling at least \$1,480.02. A total of 60 fuel purchases were made, including one purchase in Panama City Beach, Florida. The City of Adamsville terminated Knight's employment on September 18, 2018.

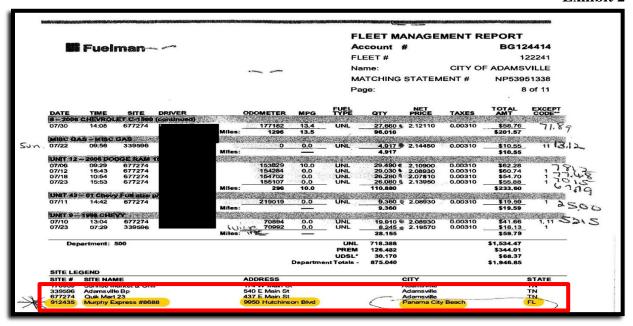
(See Exhibits 1 and 2).

#### Exhibit 1





#### Exhibit 2



Personal fuel purchase totaling \$34.78 in Panama City, Florida

On October 14, 2019, the McNairy County Grand Jury indicted Joseph Darell Knight on one count of Theft Over \$1,000 and one count of Official Misconduct.

City of Adamsville Public Works Department Investigation Exhibit

#### INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCY

Our investigation revealed an internal control deficiency, which enabled Knight to avoid prompt detection when he made personal fuel purchases.

**Deficiency:** 

The City of Adamsville did not reconcile monthly Fleet Management Reports with fuel purchase receipts for each assigned city vehicle in a timely manner



The City of Adamsville did not reconcile monthly Fleet Management Reports with fuel purchase receipts for each assigned city vehicle in a timely manner. Officials failed to collect fuel purchase receipts from employees each month in a timely manner; therefore, reconciliations were not performed on a current basis.

City of Adamsville	officials indicated	they have corrected	this deficiency.